

Council on Postsecondary Education
July 28, 2003

Questions 4 and 5 – Other Activities

The fifth annual Faculty Development Conference was held May 19-20 at the Lexington Marriott Griffin Gate. The conference, sponsored by the Council in partnership with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, was coordinated by the Statewide Faculty Development Workgroup. More than 360 faculty representing nine public and five independent institutions attended the conference, setting a new attendance record. The theme was “The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning: Engaging the Learner” and focused on the needs of Kentucky's diverse student population. Over 60 presentations offered innovative approaches to teaching nontraditional students, including students with disabilities and adult and part-time learners. Panel discussions addressed statewide concerns about student advising, transfer, and remedial education. Governor Patton and keynote speaker Tom Layzell addressed a joint dinner of the faculty with the Institute for Effective Governance participants. The remarks focused on the importance of maintaining Kentucky's postsecondary progress during difficult economic times. This annual conference continues to grow in size and scope, increasing faculty involvement in reform goals.

The Council was represented at the 2003 Biotechnology Industry Organization convention and exhibition in Washington, D.C., in June. Also attending were the Governor and staff members from the state Office of the New Economy and the Office on Agricultural Policy, University of Kentucky and University Louisville's presidents and vice presidents for research, and representatives from academic programs at UK, UofL, and Western Kentucky University. In addition to government and postsecondary attendees, members of the Louisville Medical Center Development Corporation, Greater Louisville Inc., Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation, Lexington United, and the Kentucky Life Sciences Organization represented Kentucky at the conference.

The Governor hosted a reception and dinner for executives in biotechnology companies, biotechnology industries, and venture capital firms. He and the Kentucky delegation talked about living, working, and investing in Kentucky. Members of the delegation also met with Dr. William Haseltine, CEO of Human Genome Science, Inc., in Rockville, Maryland, toured the facility, met with HGS researchers, and discussed potential research partnerships.

Sue Hodges Moore and Ron Carson were invited by the National Governors' Association to present information on Kentucky's postsecondary education reform at a national conference, “State Accountability for Student Learning,” in

Salt Lake City June 26-27. The National Science Foundation underwrote the conference costs. Governor's office and higher education staff from 16 states, including California, Texas, and Florida, reviewed various approaches states can use to build better models to connect public information about student learning with state-level planning and public policy for higher education. One result of the meeting will be the development of an NGA-published issue paper identifying general principles of good practice that can guide the development of effective state accountability models. The Council's "Key Indicators of Progress Toward Postsecondary Reform" program was featured as a possible national model for linking learning to public accountability.

Kentucky also has assumed a leadership role in the development of the "learning grade" for the *Measuring Up* national report card on postsecondary education. It is anticipated that this grade will ultimately provide a valuable measure for the Council's key indicator assessment of how well Kentuckians are being prepared for life and work in comparison to other states.

Members of the Council staff traveled to Boulder, Colorado, June 26 to participate in a meeting sponsored by the National Forum on College-Level Learning. The PEW Charitable Trust underwrote travel expenses. Representatives of the five states selected for the National Forum's student learning pilot project—Kentucky, Illinois, Nevada, Oklahoma, and South Carolina—attended the day-long work session. Discussion topics at the meeting included statewide sampling strategies and student motivation issues for the National Forum's student learning assessment model.

The Council, working with the Governor's Office of Technology, renewed its statewide license with the Environmental Systems Research Institute on behalf of the public postsecondary institutions and Berea College. This contract provides access to the full suite of ESRI Geographic Information Software products at a lower cost than institutions were paying individually for components of that service. ESRI software is a data analysis system widely used in research and teaching in many disciplines and is a resource for various campus administrative units. Students trained in ESRI programs are in great demand in the workplace. This is another example of agencies working together to support research, teaching, and workplace needs more economically.

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